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PatentIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Pietro Padovani ) Re: Information Disclosure  
Serial No.: 10/076,923 ) Statement  
Filed: February 14, 2002 ) Group: 3652  
For: "HANDLING APPARATUS FOR ) Examiner: not yet assigned  
THERMOFORMED OBJECT STACKS..." ) Our Ref: B-4502 619523-5  
Date: July 22, 2002

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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JUL 29 2002

**GROUP 3600**

In accordance with the Applicants' duty to disclose information which may be material to the examination of this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner consider on the merits the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) before issuing the first Office Action on the merits. We are enclosing herewith a copy of each document listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified).

The documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) include those cited in the European Search Report for the corresponding European Patent Application No. EP 02003118. A copy of the Search Report (3 pages) is enclosed herewith. Also included with this IDS are documents cited in the European Search Reports for two European Patent Applications that may be related to the subject U.S. Application; European Patent Application No. 02003119 and European Patent Application No. 02003120. Copies of these Search Reports are also enclosed herewith.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

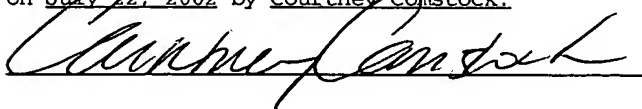
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The Applicants believe that this IDS is being submitted before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits and before the issuance of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance. Therefore, no official fees should be due; and this IDS should be considered on the merits. If this IDS is being submitted after the issuance of the first Office Action on the merits and before the issuance of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, please contact the undersigned to authorize a payment of \$180.00 (or any other required amount), which is the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c).

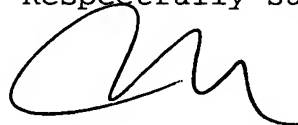
The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. (Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.)

The person making this statement is the practitioner who signs below on the basis of information supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)) and on the basis of information in the practitioner's file.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the "Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231", on July 22, 2002 by Courtney Constock.



Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Form PTO-1449 (modified) (1 page)  
Copy of Search Report for EP 02003120 (3 pages)  
Copy of Search Report for EP 02003119 (2 pages)  
Copy of Search Report for EP 02003118 (3 pages)  
Copy of documents listed on Form PTO-1449 (modified)